

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 612

2 INTRODUCED BY E. BUTTREY

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY FOR TWELFTH-GRADE
5 STUDENTS WHO LOST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POSTSECONDARY FINANCIAL AID AS A RESULT OF
6 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AUTHORIZING SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEES TO ADMIT OR RETAIN A
7 LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR OF ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC
8 ELIGIBILITY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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12 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Seniors affected by covid-19 pandemic -- additional year of
13 **eligibility.** (1) Pursuant to 20-5-101(3), the trustees of the district may admit or retain a pupil who was in 12th
14 grade during the 2020-2021 school year and who was adversely affected by the covid-19 pandemic. The
15 trustees are limited to offering this additional year of academic and athletic eligibility to the following number of
16 students:

- 17 (a) for a first-class district under 20-6-301, five students;
- 18 (b) for a second-class district under 20-6-301, four students; and
- 19 (c) for a third-class district under 20-6-301, three students.
- 20 (2) For the purposes of this section, "adversely affected" means a pupil who was in 12th grade during
21 the 2020-2021 school year who lost eligibility for, had an offer rescinded for, or likely was denied the
22 opportunity for a scholarship or other financial aid to a postsecondary institution as a result of the covid-19
23 pandemic. This includes athletic, academic, or other scholarship or financial aid awards.

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25 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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27 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2022.

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